

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6112**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1095

**DATE PREPARED:** Mar 30, 1999

**BILL AMENDED:** Mar 30, 1999

**SUBJECT:** Children's special health care services.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Ron Sobecki

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9854

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☒ **DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill requires the State Department of Health to extend all care, services, and materials to autistic children who are less than 21 years and who meet certain criteria as are provided to children with special health care needs.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 1999.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) This bill expands the medical eligibility of the Children's Special Health Care Services program to include children with autism. The State Department of Health (SDOH) has developed the following financial eligibility criteria for children with special health care needs: a family with an income before taxes no greater than 250% of the federal poverty level is eligible for the program. The annual income level ranges from \$27,125 for a family of two to \$69,125 for a family of eight at 250% of the federal poverty level. For each additional child the income level increases by \$2,800. Based upon updated information the State Department of Health has estimated that there may be as many as 1,820 children with autism.

For this fiscal analysis, the following assumptions are made:

- Approximately 24% of the 1,820 or 437 children would meet the income requirements of the program mentioned above.
- It is estimated that 24% of the 437 eligible children are Medicaid eligible, so the estimated number of children eligible for the program is 332.

The SDOH estimates that the cost of treatment for these children could be as high as \$136 per week. The SDOH is assuming the Department of Education will continue to pay the medical costs during the school year. Therefore, the SDOH will be responsible for 12 weeks of cost. The estimated cost of adding an additional 332 children to the program is \$541,824. The SDOH will also be responsible for approximately

\$33,200 in dental care. The total cost to the Children with Special Health Care Needs Fund is estimated to be \$575,024. The Children with Special Health Care Needs Fund serves as a payor of last resort. Therefore, the \$575,024 per year estimate is the maximum amount that would be paid from the Fund.

The Children with Special Health Care Needs Fund received a state General Fund appropriation of \$7,471,096 in FY 98. The Fund also receives funding from a county property tax levy. The amount received from the property tax levy and other local miscellaneous revenues in FY 98 was \$6,300,000. The Fund currently has a balance of approximately \$15 million. Current spending from the Fund is approximately \$2 million more than the annual revenue deposited into the Fund due to the current balance. The current fund balance should be able to support the additional services to this cohort for an indeterminable time.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Health.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Joni Albright, State Department of Health, 233-7458.